

## Aboveground nutrient components of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *E. grandis* in semiarid Brazil under the nature and the mycorrhizal inoculation conditions

Marcela C. Pagano<sup>1</sup>\*, Antonio F. Bellote<sup>2</sup>, Maria R. Scotti<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Microorganism-Plant Interaction Laboratory, Institute of Biological Sciences, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Av. Antônio Carlos, 6627, Pampulha, CEP: 31270-901, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil.

<sup>2</sup>Embrapa Forestry, Estrada da Ribeira, km 111, Caixa Postal 319 - Colombo, PR - 83411-000-, Brazil.

**Abstract:** A study was conducted to evaluate the aboveground biomass, nutrient content and the percentages of mycorrhizal colonization in *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Eucalyptus grandis* plantations in the semiarid region (15° 09' S 43° 49' W) in the north of the State of Minas Gerais in Brazil. Results show that the total above-ground biomass (dry matter) was 33.6 Mg·ha<sup>-1</sup> for *E. camaldulensis* and 53.1 Mg·ha<sup>-1</sup> for *E. grandis*. The biomass of the stem wood, leaves, branches, and stem bark for *E. camaldulensis* accounted for 64.4%, 19.6%, 15.4%, and 0.6% of the total biomass, respectively (Table 2); meanwhile a similar partition of the total above-ground biomass was also found for *E. grandis*. The dry matter of leaves and branches of *E. camaldulensis* accounted for 35% of total biomass, and the contents of N, P, K, Ca, Mg, and S in leaves and branches accounted for 15.5%, 0.7%, 12.3%, 22.6%, 1.9%, and 1.4% of those in total above-ground biomass, respectively. In the trunk (bark and wood), nutrient accumulation in general was lower. Nutrient content of *E. grandis* presented little variation compared with that of *E. camaldulensis*. Wood localized in superior parts of trunk presented a higher concentration of P and bark contained significant amounts of nutrients, especially in *E. grandis*. This indicated that leaving vegetal waste is of importance on the site in reducing the loss of tree productivity in this semi-arid region. The two species showed mycotrophy.

**Keywords:** Eucalyptus; biomass; nutrient components; semi-arid region; mycorrhizal symbioses; Brazil

### Introduction

*Eucalyptus*, native from Australia, with more than 600 species, has been used as a monoculture in afforestation programs. In many countries these plantations are used in cellulose industries, pharmaceuticals and hygiene. The *Eucalyptus* species present characteristics suitable for commercial use, such as fast growth, high cellulose production and resistance to environmental stress and diseases (Santos et al. 2001). In Brazil, for a sustainable production in intensive systems of wood extraction, to keep or improve the nutritional soil levels is essential. Studies showed a general upward trend in N fertilizer requirements in commercial

eucalypt plantations (Gonçalves et al. 2004; Laclau et al. 2005; Corbeels et al. 2005) and the N inputs are a major cost in Brazilian silviculture not to mention the potential risks of pollution and leaching of nitrates in tropical forest soils (Fisher and Binkley 2000).

Gonçalves (1995) reported the nutrient accumulation in 5–6 year-old *Eucalyptus grandis* plantations in Brazil and observed that during harvesting part of nutrients remain in the ecosystem accumulated in leaves, branches and litter when these are not removed from the site. Nevertheless, 30% of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and calcium (Ca), and 43% of potassium (K) are removed when wood is extracted. The loss of N, P, K and Ca increases 40%, 60%, 65%, and 48%, respectively, when bark is extracted with wood. Mineral fertilization is a common practice to improve productivity; however, management policies need further studies. Most biomass and nutrients accumulated by planted *E. grandis* occurred between two and five years of age, when the leaf area is expanding. *E. camaldulensis* is very widely distributed in inland Australia along river banks. This fast growing tree species can tolerate moderate salinity, alkalinity, extended dry seasons and waterlogging, and is extensively planted throughout the world for purposes such as shade, shelter, agroforestry, furniture and industrial wood production (Midgley et al. 1989; Marques Júnior et al. 1996). The rotation length is about 3–5 years for *E. camaldulensis* and 7 years for *E. grandis* (Caminhos

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Biography: Marcela Claudia Pagano (1966-), \*Corresponding author, female, Major: Botany; Postdoctoral researcher at Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil. e-mail: [marpagano@gmail.com](mailto:marpagano@gmail.com)

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1999).

Sandy soils are characterized by little water and nutrient retention, which means difficult management and vegetation development in these areas, the presence of arbuscular mycorrhiza being important to increase the capacity of water and nutrient absorption by plants (Córdoba et al. 2001). It is important then to know the mycorrhizal condition of species in order to allow for research on seedlings production and technologies for a successful reforestation.

Arbuscular mycorrhiza (AM) are substantially involved in the vegetative state of the mycotrophic plants, defining their ecologic niches, influencing vegetal communities composition, maintenance and soil fertility, plant fitness, and nutrient turnover (Jeffries et al. 2003). Some plant species, like *Eucalyptus* spp., have the capacity to form two types of mycorrhizas, arbuscular and ectomycorrhiza (ECM) (Malajczuk et al. 1981; Zambolim and Barros 1982). Establishment of AM association in *Eucalyptus* has been known for over 20 years, and the benefits of symbiosis have proved commercially relevant (Zambolim and Barros 1982; Coelho 1997; Gomes and Trufem 1998; Graziotti et al. 1998; Santos et al. 2001). Studies of AM inoculation on eucalypt are increasing (Standish et al. 2007) and *Glomus* sp. was used as inoculum (Arriagada et al. 2007). As regards ECM, Molina et al. (1992) and Thomson et al. (1996)'s studies suggest that the majority of fungi, selected for their enhancement of seedling growth, may persist only for short periods in the field, where they are replaced by wild populations. Whereas, Pampolina et al. (2002) showed the significance of ECM in immobilizing P and other nutrients as well as the impact of P fertilization, as well as, Chen et al. (2000) and Mason et al. (2000) recommended the inoculation with tested ECM. There are numerous studies on ECM; however, works on *E. camaldulensis* and *E. grandis* AM/ ECM colonization in field conditions are to the best of our knowledge few.

The need to evaluate the success of these *Eucalyptus* spp. at the Jaíba region motivated this study of plant nutrient content and mycorrhizal status, aiming at increasing the possible ways of forest management in the region, and as a productive model for revegetation of local degraded areas with the objective of mixed them with native local species. This information is essential to identify methods for sustainable management.

The objective of the present study was: (1) to evaluate growth and quantify nutrient content of aboveground dry mass in 28-month-old pure stands of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *E. grandis*, and (2) to examine the mycorrhizal root colonization.

## Materials and methods

Study area, design, determination of biomass and nutrient quantification

The study area is located in the semiarid region (15°09' S 43°49' W) in the north of the State of Minas Gerais in Brazil, and is characterized by annual pluviometric rates of 800 mm concentrated in the spring-summer months from November to January, there being about 10 dry months (Prado 2003). According to Köppen, the climate of the region is BSh type (semiarid)

(Carvalho 2003). Mean annual air temperature ranges from 24.2–28.1°C, with mean annual temperatures of 34°C in the hottest month (January) and 14.8°C in the coldest month (July). Annual precipitation is 749 mm. Precipitation in December and July are 217 mm and 1 mm, respectively (Mocambinho Agroclimatic Station). Predominant soil types are Quartzarenic Neosol with high infiltration rate. Furthermore, they are moderately acid and have small amounts of soil organic matter.

The present study focuses on *Eucalyptus* monocultures within the scope of a broad project dealing with the introduction of mixed and monocultures of *Eucalyptus* in a 10-ha experimental area, after the woody Caatinga had been cut and occupied by degraded vegetation named “Carrasco”, with the aim of providing wood supply and minimising exploratory actions in biological reserves in the northwest of Minas Gerais state, Brazil. The experimental site (1.5 ha) was cleared of “Carrasco” vegetation (with retards the natural succession of forest) and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Dehnh and *E. grandis* Hill ex Maiden were cultivated in monocultures. Seedlings were transplanted during the rainy season in 2001, using a randomized block design with 42 plants, which were randomly distributed in each of the three blocks per site. Each block was composed by one plot of 378 m<sup>2</sup> (21m×18 m) with single plantations and 42 plants per block, with a spacing of 3m×3m. These plots were irrigated for about 10 months (Duarte et al 2006, Pagano et al. 2008).

For the present study we selected two experiments: 1- *E. camaldulensis* inoculated with AMF, and 2- *E. grandis* inoculated with AMF. The AMF inoculum consisted of a mix of three species *Gigaspora margarita*, *Scutellospora heterogama* and *Glomus brohultii* from the ICB-UFMG laboratory collection. Endomycorrhizal inoculation was accomplished by placing 1 ml of suspension composed of 50 spores of each AMF species.

Fertilization consisted in triple superphosphate (400 kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>), KCl (305.6 Kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>), MgSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O (40 kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>), ZnSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O (37.4 kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>), MoO<sub>3</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (1.4 kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>), urea (177.6 kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>) corresponding to 80% of complete fertilization following Somasegaran and Hoben (1985), and was applied at the beginning of the experiment. Plantation was then carried out and, when necessary, ant colonies were exterminated with formicide. In subsequent years, plantations were rid of ants, weeds and low branches.

Soil samples were collected from the top 20 cm of 3 spots/block/experiment (3 subsamples x 3 blocks x 2 experiments). Composite samples (2) were analyzed for chemical and physical properties. The soil analysis was performed by Embrapa - Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (1979). After carefully removing the surface organic materials and fine roots, the soil was sieved through a 2-mm mesh screen. Soil pH (H<sub>2</sub>O), cation exchange capacity (CEC) determined by the ammonium acetate 1N method at pH 7.0, and percent BS (base saturation) were determined. O.M. (organic matter) was extracted according to Walkley and Black, as described by Nelson and Sommer (1982).

Mean diameter at breast height (1.3 m) over bark (D) (BHD, cm) and mean height of *E. camaldulensis* and *E. grandis* were calculated for each treatment. We selected three trees at random. They were chainsawed and sampled for subsequent nutrient analysis. Branches were separated from the trunk and all the leaves were

collected at field. Then, total fresh weight of leaves, branches, bark and trunk wood of the sampled trees were determined at EPAMIG Company, Mocimbo. Sampling was done in April, between summer and autumn, following Bellote (Personal communication).

Dry mass production and nutrient concentration of *Eucalyptus* spp. cultivated in monoculture were evaluated at 28 months. The growth model was based on individual trees. Trunk samples consisted in 3.0 cm thick discs removed at each trunk, at base and 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% of height, including BHD, as proposed by Shimoyama (1990). For each disc, the bark was separated from the wood. This measurement served as a reference for wood density (wd) determination. These samples (weighed after immersion) were dried in a circulation oven at temperatures ranging from 65°C, until constant weight. Finally, samples were weighed with an analytical balance in order to obtain dry weight (dw) and the dry biomass of the components in each tree was calculated proportionally.

Total dry weight of leaves was obtained against composite samples of fresh weight, by using the following equation:

$$TDW = (TFW \times SDW) / SFW \quad (1)$$

where, *TDW* is the total dry weight (g), *TFW* the total fresh weight (g), *SDW* the sample dry weight (g), and *SFW* is the sample fresh weight (g).

Discs were used to calculate wood density of each subcompartment (bark and trunk wood), in each section of trunk, by the hydrostatic balance method, according to Bellote (1990).

$$bd = DW / (FW - IW) \quad (2)$$

where *bd* is the basic density (g/cm<sup>3</sup>), *DW* the dry weight, *FW* the saturated fresh weight (g), and *IW* is the immersed weight (g). Bark was removed from stem sections used to determine wood density. Dry mass of the sample was determined after oven drying for 48 h at 105°C.

Samples were taken of BHD, D5 (disc 5) and D6 sections for determination of mineral nutrient levels at EMBRAPA-Maize and Sorghum Soil Analyses Laboratory. Samples were dried at 75°C, digested in nitric-perchloric mixture and analyzed for macronutrients. Phosphorus was analyzed by the ammonium phosphomolybdate method. Calcium, potassium and magnesium were analyzed by atomic absorption and potassium by flame photometry. After sulfuric digestion, Nitrogen (N) was determined by Kjeldahl method. These procedures are in according with Sarruge and Haag's methodology (1974). Nutrient concentrations of D2 sample were used to calculate wood (under bark) and bark nutrient concentrations (Young and Carpenter 1976).

Total tree volume (bark and trunk wood) was calculated by the Smalian equation which expressed the sum of segments of length calculated, which make up the trunk)

$$V = 1/2 \times (\pi D^2 / 4 + \pi d^2 / 4) \times h \quad (3)$$

where, *V* is the log volume (m<sup>3</sup>), *D* the log major diameter (cm), *d* the log minor diameter (cm), and *h* is the log height (m).

Based on basic density and volume, total dry weight (*W*) was

determined by using the following equations:

$$W = bd \times V \quad (\text{for bark and trunk wood}) \quad (4)$$

where, *W* is the weight (g), *bd* the basic density (g·cm<sup>-3</sup>), and *V* the log volume (m<sup>3</sup>).

To find out tree nutrient content, the model considered differences in concentration in stem compartment, that is, in bark and wood and also in leaves and branches. Bark volume was obtained through the difference between volumes with bark and without bark. The sum of leave and branches provided 12 samples, which yielded 12 determinations of nutrient levels. Discs (18 samples) provided 16 density determinations (2 samples were contaminated), besides allowing for calculating nutrient content in each tree log and each compartment analyzed.

Macronutrient stock (kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>) in the aboveground biomass was calculated on the basis of the dry mass estimation (kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>) and the macronutrient concentrations (g·kg<sup>-1</sup>) obtained in the present study. The sum of the values for each component provided the total nutrient content (kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>) of aboveground dry mass.

#### Root colonization

Roots of *Eucalyptus* spp. were collected by excavating from the trunk to the lateral root system of each tree. Four root samples were harvested around the tree, and mixed together. Samples were collected from three trees at each block and were fixed in FAA solution (formalin:alcohol:acetic acid) until samples could be processed. Roots were stained and assessed for mycorrhizal infection as follows. Roots were taken from the 1/2 FAA, washed several times in tap water and bleached in 10% (w/v) KOH (Phillips and Hayman 1970) overnight and then heated to approximately 90°C in a water bath for 1 h. The cooled root samples were washed and stained with 0.05% trypan blue according to Phillips and Hayman (1970). Roots were cut into 1-cm segments and thirty 1-cm-root fragments were examined per sample for their arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) status under a compound microscope (100 X). If at least one root segment was found to contain fungal mycelia, arbuscules or vesicles, then the sample was considered as an AM plant, recorded as “+”. Plants were recorded as non-mycorrhizal (“-”) when neither arbuscules/vesicles nor fungal mycelia were detected in their root cortical cells. Quantification of mycorrhiza colonization was according to McGonigle et al. (1990), and results were expressed as percentage of colonized segments. Roots colonized by ectomycorrhizal fungi (presence of Hartig net) were included when calculating the percentage of root length colonized by ECM. Dual mycorrhizae (AM and ECM) were observed and individually recorded for calculation. These data were arcsin (x/100)<sup>1/2</sup> transformed. The data were subjected to one-way ANOVA using MINITAB software version 13.2 and means were compared by Tukey test (P < 0.05).

#### Results and discussion

The soil at the research site showed a pH ranging between 6.1 (*E. camaldulensis*) and 5.8 (*E. grandis*) in the topsoil (Table 1).

Textural composition presents 84% sand. Organic matter levels were found to be low in both *E. camaldulensis* and *E. grandis* monocultures, compared to those of foredunes (0.8%) in Brazil (Córdoba et al. 2001). The CEC was low and the percentage of BS (base saturation) was medium in *E. camaldulensis* and in *E.*

*grandis* monoculture. In general, soil presented a high content of Zn, Cu and Fe (Table 1), which is in accordance with other reports that showed an improved acquisition of Zn and Cu by arbuscular mycorrhizal (Rillig 2004).

**Table 1. Chemical analysis of the soil from the sampling site of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *E. grandis* monocultures inoculated with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) soils at 2 years (Jaíba, Minas Gerais, Brazil)**

Species	pH (H <sub>2</sub> O)	Soil organic matter (mg·g <sup>-1</sup> )	Available. P (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	Available. K (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	Exchange Iron (cmol (+)·kg <sup>-1</sup> )			CEC (cmol(+)-kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Base saturation (%)
	1:1				Al <sup>3+</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup>		
<i>E. camaldulensis</i>	6.1	0.7	3.96	80	0	2.27	0.57	4.9	61
<i>E. grandis</i>	5.8	0.7	2.89	68	0.1	2.05	0.45	4.8	55
Species	Total porosity	Zn (cmol (+)·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Cu (cmol (+)·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Mn (cmol (+)·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Fe (cmol (+)·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Texture (%) <sup>a</sup>			
						Coarse sand	Fine sand	Clay	Silt
<i>E. camaldulensis</i>	44.46	1	0.5	318	170	48	36	16	0
<i>E. grandis</i>	41.08	1.9	0.5	388	176	52	32	13	3

<sup>a</sup> Mean of two measures from one composite sample. Particle size distribution: coarse sand 2–0.2 mm, fine sand 0.2–0.02 mm, silt 0.02–0.002 mm and clay < 0.002 mm. mg L<sup>-1</sup> = milligram per liter, CEC = cation exchange capacity.

The height (12.2 m) of *E. camaldulensis* observed in this study was higher than that (10.4 m) previously reported by Bernardo *et al.* (1998) in Cerrado soils in southeastern Brazil, at age 41 months, and the mean diameter was bigger than that in conventional fertilization plantation (Table 2). The above-ground biomass was 33.6 Mg·ha<sup>-1</sup> for *E. camaldulensis* and 53.1 Mg·ha<sup>-1</sup> for *E. grandis*. Of the total above-ground biomass of *E. camaldulensis*, the stem wood, leaves, branches, and stem bark account for 64.4%, 19.6%, 15.4%, and 0.6%, respectively (Table 2), and, a similar partition of the total above-ground biomass was also found for *E. grandis* (66.6%, 16.1%, 17.1%, and 0.2% spread in the stem

wood, leaves, branches, and stem bark, respectively). The aboveground biomass (3.1 Mg·ha<sup>-1</sup>) of *E. grandis* in the present study was higher than that obtained by Faria *et al.* (2002) (46.4 Mg·ha<sup>-1</sup>) at 80 months-old stands of this species in a Cerrado region of Minas Gerais, whereas the stem volume (75.9 m<sup>3</sup>·ha<sup>-1</sup>) was lower than that observed in Cerrado (87.9 m<sup>3</sup>·ha<sup>-1</sup>). Almeida *et al.* (2007) predicted a lower stem volume (approximately 50 m<sup>3</sup>·ha<sup>-1</sup>) for *E. grandis* on Brazil's Atlantic coast. Biomass distribution in descending order was: wood> leaves> branches> bark, for *E. camaldulensis* and, wood> branch> leaves> bark for *E. grandis* (Table 2).

**Table 2. Characteristics of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *E. grandis* monocultures inoculated with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF), after 28 months of growth, at Jaíba, Minas Gerais, Brazil**

Species	Height (m)	Diameter (cm)	Above-ground dry mass (Mg·ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Canopy dry mass (Mg·ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Leaves dry mass (g)	Branches dry mass (g)	Stem bark (g)	Wood (g)	Stem Volume (m <sup>3</sup> ·ha <sup>-1</sup> )
<i>E. camaldulensis</i>	12.2 (0.4)	10.5 (0.3)	33.6 (6.5)*	11.7 (3.4)	5916.7 (1208)	4645.5 (2155)	179.7 (54.4)	19475.5 (2833)	42.8 (4.4)
<i>E. grandis</i>	12.9 (0.8)	11.8 (0.8)	53.1 (1.4)*	17.6 (5.1)	7703.1 (1814)	8180.2 (2800)	87.3 (24.3)	31834.1(3639)	75.9 (4.9)

Dates from monocultures with 3 m × 3 m spacing. Standard deviations of means between brackets. N=3. \* significant values at 0.05 level

Table 3 shows the results of the content, average amount and ratio (percentage) of some selected micro- and macronutrients immobilized in each component of the aboveground biomass of *E. camaldulensis* and *E. grandis*. We observed that 33.2% of nutrients were accumulated in *E. camaldulensis* leaves, 6.2% in wood, 21.6% in branches, and 38.8% in stem bark.

For *E. camaldulensis*, the contents of N, P, K, Ca, Mg, and S in the total biomass were 122.7, 6.4, 99.8, 208.9, 16.1, and 11.2 kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The dry matter of leaves and branches accounted for 35% of the total biomass, and the contents of N, P, K, Ca, Mg, and S in leaves and branches accounted for 15.5%, 0.7%, 12.3%, 22.6%, 1.9%, and 1.4% of those in total

above-ground biomass, respectively. In the trunk (bark and wood), which represents the remaining 65% of the total above-ground biomass, 4.5% of N, 0.28% of P, 7.4% of K, 31.3% of Ca, 1.1% of Mg, and 0.6% of S were accumulated. Thus the canopy (leaves and branches) concentrates 54.73% nutrients of total aboveground biomass. Leaves have most tree living cells that tend to accumulate larger quantities of nutrients, due to respiration and photosynthesis (Kramer and Koslowski 1979).

For *E. grandis*, the contents of N, P, K, Ca, Mg, and S in the total biomass were 224.4, 10.7, 103.1, 225.4, 26.5, and 12.6 kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>, and the contents of N, P, K, Ca, Mg, and S in leaves and branches accounted for 23.6%, 1.1% , 10.5%, 20.9%, 2.6%, and



1.1% of those in total aboveground biomass (Table 3). In the trunk (bark and wood), which represents the remaining 66.8% of the total aboveground biomass, 6.3% of N, 0.34% of P, 4.7% of K, 26.4% of Ca, 1.8% of Mg, and 0.6% of S were accumulated.

The contents of N observed in our study were similar to the results obtained by Hunter (2001), who reported an average N content of 16 mg/g for *E. grandis* at 37 months and 14 mg/g for *E. camaldulensis* in a mixed plantation with 2m×2 m spacing. This corroborates other studies of nutrient contents of forests (Poggiani et al. 1983; Boerner 1984; Pereira et al. 1984; Timmer and Mor-

row 1984; Hopmans et al. 1993). In general, the concentrations for N varied as foliage > branches, bole bark, roots > bole wood. Harrison et al. (2000) showed a higher N concentration in leaf and bark in *E. camaldulensis* in Cerrado soils, but the same concentrations in branches and wood. Schumacher and Poggiani (1993) reported higher N, P and K concentrations in leaves and highest concentrations of Ca and Mg in bark in *E. camaldulensis* and *E. grandis*. Dell et al. (1995) suggest that N leave concentrations for *Eucalyptus grandis* × *Eucalyptus urophylla* must be between 18 to 29 g·kg<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table 3. Results of average content, average amount and ratio of nutrients in the different components of above-ground biomass of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *E. grandis* inoculated with AMF, at Jaíba, Minas Gerais, Brazil**

Species	cp	N			P			K		
		g·kg <sup>-1</sup>	kg·ha <sup>-1</sup>	%	g·kg <sup>-1</sup>	kg·ha <sup>-1</sup>	%	g·kg <sup>-1</sup>	kg·ha <sup>-1</sup>	%
<i>E. camaldulensis</i>	Leaves	13.1	86.2	10.7	0.5	3.6	0.4	8*	52.8	6.5
	Branches	5.8	30.4	4.8	0.4	2.3	0.3	7.1*	36.8	5.8
	Wood	2.4	2.6	1.9	0.1	0.1	0.08	2.3	2.5	1.8
	Bark	3.1	3.4	2.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	6.8	7.5	5.5
<i>E. grandis</i>	Leaves	17.9	153.3	16.9	0.7	6.2	0.6	5.9*	50.7	5.6
	Branches	6.9	63.6	6.6	0.4	4.1	0.4	5.1*	46.8	4.8
	Wood	2.2	2.4	2.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.6	1.7	1.5
	Bark	4.5	5	4.2	0.2	0.2	0.24	3.4	3.7	3.2
Species	cp	Ca			Mg			S		
		g·kg <sup>-1</sup>	kg·ha <sup>-1</sup>	%	g·kg <sup>-1</sup>	kg·ha <sup>-1</sup>	%	g·kg <sup>-1</sup>	kg·ha <sup>-1</sup>	%
<i>E. camaldulensis</i>	Leaves	16.2	106.4	13.2	1.7	11.2	1.4	1	6.7	0.8
	Branches	11.6	59.8	9.4	0.6	3.3	0.5	0.7	3.6	0.5
	Wood	2.2	2.4	1.8	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
	Bark	36.1	40.1	29.5	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.3
<i>E. grandis</i>	Leaves	12.3	105.8	11.7	1.9	17	1.8	0.7	8.3	0.7
	Branches	9.7	88.5	9.2	0.8	7.4	0.7	0.4	3.6	0.3
	Wood	1.3	1.4	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
	Bark	26.6	29.5	25.2	1.6	1.7	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.2

Cp= component of above-ground biomass; \* significant values at 0.05 level

Phosphorus accumulation observed in this study was similar to the results obtained by Hunter (2001). The concentration of P in branches was somewhat higher than the results showed by Hunter (2001). By other hand, Harrison et al. (2000) showed higher levels of P for this species, which varied as foliage > branches, bole bark, small roots > taproot, coarse roots, bole wood.

Corroborating previous studies (Drechsel and Zech 1991; Harrison et al. 2000), K concentrations in leaves were adequate for satisfactory growth. For all components, *E. camaldulensis* had the highest K concentration (33% higher) (Table 3).

Calcium concentration in *E. grandis* was similar to results showed by Hunter (2001), whereas Ca and Mg contents in *E. camaldulensis* were lower than the data showed by Hunter (2001). Sulfur is an essential element found in plants mostly in its reduced form in amino acids cysteine and methionine. Sulfur contents of the leaves were slightly lower than usual values (1.9 to 3.2 g·kg<sup>-1</sup>) proposed by Dell et al. (1995). Silveira et al. (2003) also found a lower S concentration compared to that proposed in *E. grandis* seedlings leaves. The sulfur content in the total biomass (11 to 12.5 kg·ha<sup>-1</sup>) (Table 3) was higher than that reported by Caldeira

et al. (2002) for a leguminous tree, *Acacia mearnsii*. Most of the nutrients were concentrated in the leaves and bark. Similar results (leaves) were found by Tandon et al. (1988) in Australian plantations of *E. grandis*, Vezzani (1997) in pure and mixed stands of *Eucalyptus saligna* and *Acacia mearnsii* and in Brazil, by George and Varghese (1990) in *E. globulus*. Nutrient concentration in leaves is influenced by diverse factors such as site conditions, age, position of leaves and season (Van der Driessche 1984). Bellote (1990) observed that nutrient concentration in leaves of *Eucalyptus grandis* in Brazil varies with stand age and with the season. If *E. camaldulensis* canopy concentrates 54.7% of total above-ground biomass nutrients, an exploitation system that preserves these tree components in the site would mean that approx. 403 kg·ha<sup>-1</sup> of these nutrients could remain in this site.

If we consider plant height alone, there was no significant difference between the two species in the monocultures, whereas, in terms of aboveground dry mass, *E. grandis* performed better than *E. camaldulensis*. The two species thus show a difference in biomass partitioning and accumulation and differ in their concentrations of macronutrients (Table 3). To assess nutrient content

in trees during sampling, an age of three years old must be chosen since at this age *E. grandis* shows larger biomass accumulation per time unit. This is due to three-year-old trees' bigger capacity to absorb soil nutrients and according to Bellote (1990) to the fact that nutrient content in three-year-old *E. grandis* mature leaves shows the highest values.

The inner variability of trees species in longitudinal sense has more drastic effect on the chemical composition of bark than on that of wood. Wood of basal log of the two *Eucalyptus* species presented higher levels of N than the others logs. More apical logs present the highest N and P in the bark, and the highest P in the wood. *E. camaldulensis* showed the highest levels of Ca, Mg and S, at the basal log, and for K, the highest content was in the bark of basal log and wood of apical logs. *E. grandis* showed also more Ca, Mg and S content in basal log wood but, in contrast, bark of apical logs and wood of basal log presents more K (Table 4).

**Table 4. Quantification of nutrients of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *E. grandis* inoculated with AMF, 28 months old, at Jaíba, Minas Gerais, Brazil. (Means, N=3)**

Species		N (g)	P (g)	K (g)	Ca (g)	Mg (g)	S (g)
<i>E. camaldulensis</i>	Leaves	77.6 <sup>†</sup>	3.3	47.6	95.8	10.1	6.06
	Branches	27.4	2.1	33.1	53.9	3.01	3.3
	Basal logs	Bark	0.14	0.01	0.26	1.62	0.05
		Wood	11.03	0.46	11.1	10.25	1.55
	Apical logs	Bark	0.3	0.08	0.13	0.21	0.02
		Wood	6.3	0.7	13.3	7.76	0.9
							0.92
<i>E. grandis</i>	Leaves	138	5.6	45.7	95.3	15.3	7.49
	Branches	57.2	3.7	42.14	79.7	6.6	3.26
	Basal logs	Bark	0.07	0.004	0.06	0.42	0.028
		Wood	18.5	0.8	13.9	11.39	2.16
	Apical logs	Bark	0.08	0.07	0.11	0.45	0.03
		Wood	10.1	0.94	11.6	6.7	1.9
							1.17

<sup>†</sup>= Mean nitrogen content (g) in a plant compartment.

Potassium and Ca are nutrients that could limit productivity in the next cycle, and this limitation can be reduced, if only wood was harvested. To support the optimum soil calcium levels is, therefore, of increasing interest due to the lower levels of this nutrient present in soils cultivated with eucalypt, and to the fact that about 58% of total calcium absorbed is exported by bark removal.

Mycorrhizal colonization varied with *Eucalyptus* species. Assessments of percentage AM and ECM root length for *E. camaldulensis* and *E. grandis* are shown in Table 5. The *E. camaldulensis* AM root colonization (hyphae) was 15%, and vesicles were found in the same percentage. Structures observed suggest a Glomeraceae AM colonization (Sieverding 1991), *Glomus* sp. being relevant for this species at this site (Pagano 2007, Pagano et al. 2008). These results are in accordance with those obtained by Santos et al. (2001) where *E. camaldulensis* presented the highest values of percent AM mycorrhizal colonization among several *Eucalyptus* species and with Adjoud-Sadadu and Halli-Hargas (2000) who reported a <50% AM colonization by this same species. By other hand, levels of AM colonization were lower to those found by Malajczuk et al. (1982)

for *E. marginata*. *Eucalyptus* presented a Hartig net (ECM) confined to epidermal cells (Brundrett 2004).

*Eucalyptus grandis* did not show AM root colonization (Table 5). This may depend on the time of sampling, but ECM was preferentially related with this species. Chen et al. (2006) showed that rooting media greatly affected *Scleroderma* colonization of *Eucalyptus urophylla* roots from spore inoculum in nursery experiments. Our results of the dual colonization by ECM and AM fungi in *E. camaldulensis* support the predominance of ECMs (Lapyeyrie and Chilvers 1985, Gardner and Malajczuk 1988, Brundrett et al. 1996, Chen et al. 2000). ECM colonization of *E. grandis* was similarly to the results presented by Chen et al. (2006) for *E. urophylla* (aprox. 50%), whereas AM colonization (10%) was similar to *E. camaldulensis* AM colonization shown in this work. Sustained levels of root colonization above 50% have been mentioned as necessary to ensure high survival and productivity of plantation (Marx et al. 1989) accessing sufficient N and P. Ectomycorrhizal fungi are common in eucalypt plantations, being ecologically important in nutrient cycling (Högberg and Högberg 2002, Read and Perez-Moreno 2003). Our observations of abundant basidiocarps (probably *Pisolithus*), especially in *E. grandis* plots, suggest that ECM may enable uptake of immobile phosphorus and other nutrients as has been reported by other references (Smith and Read 1997) reflecting this in plant nutrient content. Thus, the higher nutrient content (especially N and P) in *E. grandis* biomass in this study may be explained by the presence of ECM. On the other hand, AMF have an ecological and agronomic importance in the tropics and their presence can be influenced by environmental factors such as: climate conditions, physical properties, soil chemical and physical properties, host vegetal species and their age and variety (Cardoso and Kuyper 2006).

**Table 5. Mycorrhizal colonization in the homogeneous plantations of 24-month-old *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Eucalyptus grandis* inoculated with AMF at Jaíba, Minas Gerais, Brazil, in the dry period**

Colonization	Host plant species	
	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>
AM hyphae	15 <sup>†a</sup>	0 <sup>b</sup>
AM vesicles	15 <sup>a</sup>	0 <sup>b</sup>
ECM	26.66 <sup>ab</sup>	50 <sup>ba</sup>

<sup>†</sup>% colonization; values followed by the same lowercase letter (row) do not differ at P<0.05 as determined by Tukey 5%; AM= arbuscular mycorrhiza; ECM= ectomycorrhiza.

## Conclusion

According to the previously described results on *Eucalyptus* spp., it can be concluded that total productivity was of the order *E. grandis* > *E. camaldulensis* and that these species did not reduce growth and aboveground biomass production when cultivated at this site, showing nutrient concentrations similar to that informed in the literature. The highest nutrient concentrations were found in the leaves and the lowest concentrations of N, P, K, Ca and Mg were found in the stem wood, those of S being in the stem wood and bark; wood localized in superior parts of trunk presented

higher concentration of P and bark contained significant amounts of nutrients, especially in *E. grandis*. This points the importance of leaving vegetal slash (mostly crown) on the site in order to decrease the loss of tree productivity in this semiarid region. This work is an approach towards studding *Eucalyptus* in the Southern Brazilian region; further research is necessary, especially regarding litter accumulation, below-ground biomass, and nutrient dynamics.

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